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ABSTRACT

To assist the youthful learner of English as a second language in dealing with finding his way around, a series of dialogs, comprehension questions, readings, and points of discussion are presented. The text is illustrated with maps. (JB)

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ED195140

STUDENT LESSON #5

GETTING AROUND
UNIT 1
READING MAPS AND ASKING DIRECTIONS

English for Living

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The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Bilingual Education
Albany, New York 12234
1979

OBJECTIVES

When you finish this module you will be able to:

1. Read road maps.
2. Ask and understand directions to get from one place to another.

SITUATION SETTER

New Yorkers travel a lot, especially in the summer. Most of them travel by car. They usually need to read city street maps and state road maps. They often need to ask directions. If you travel by car, you will have to read maps and ask directions, too. This lesson will help you do both.

PART 1
CITY STREETS

BACKGROUND TO THE DIALOG

Nam and Kim have just arrived in Albany from New York City. They are on Fuller Road. They want to go to their motel, but they are lost. Nam is asking a police officer directions.

Nam: Excuse me, Officer. I'm lost. How do I get to the Star Motel?

Police officer: Turn left at the next light. Take Western Avenue for a few blocks and you'll see it. It is on the right, opposite the State University.

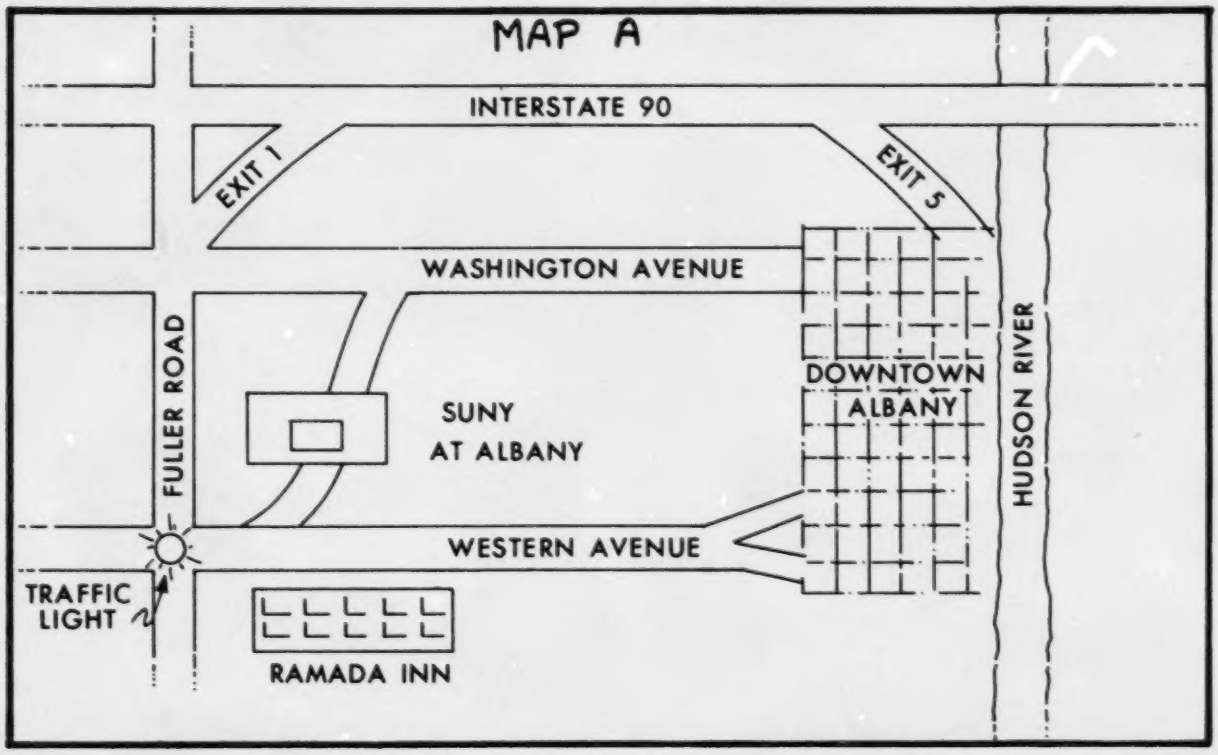
Nam: Thank you very much.

Nam: Another question, please. How do we get from the motel to downtown Albany?

Police officer: Interstate 90 is the fastest way downtown. From the motel, go back to Fuller Road. Turn right on Fuller Road. Turn right again on Washington Avenue. Turn left at the first stoplight, and you will be on Interstate 90. Get off at Exit 5.

Nam: Is it very far?

Police officer: Yes, it's quite a ways from the Star Motel. It's about four miles.



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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do Nam and Kim want to go?
2. What happened to them?
3. Who gave them directions?
4. How do they get to the motel?
5. What is the fastest way from the motel to downtown Albany?

MICROCONVERSATIONS: Practice these conversations with another student.

MICROCONVERSATION 1

Student A: Excuse me. How do I get from the State University to downtown Albany?

Student B: (Give directions, using Map A.)

MICROCONVERSATION 2

Student A: Excuse me. How do I get from downtown Albany to the Star Motel?

Student B: (Give directions, using Map A.)

MICROCONVERSATION 3

Student A: Excuse me. How do I get from here to the nearest hospital?
the nearest police station?
your house?
the nearest theater?
the nearest supermarket?

Student B: (Answer question using real information or a local map if you need help.)

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE

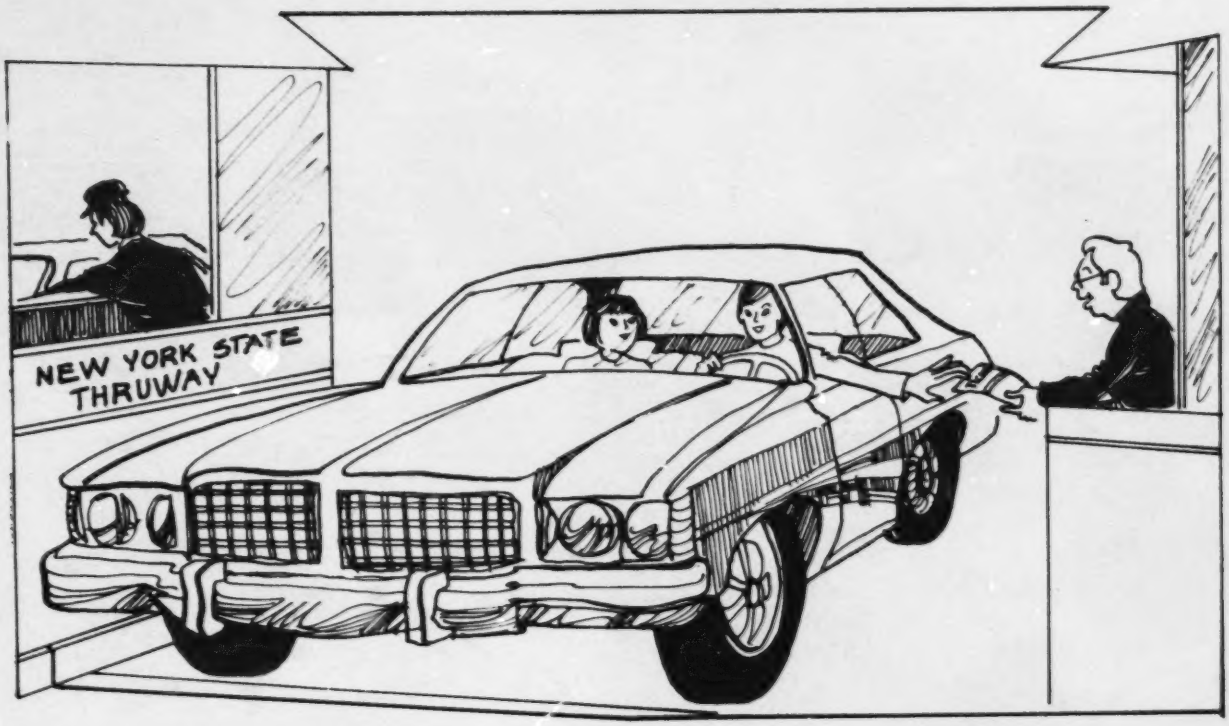
A. Draw a street map of your neighborhood and then tell another student how to get from your house to your best friend's house.
the nearest gas station.
the police station.
the movie theater.
school.
a shopping center.
a youth center.

B. Using a street map of your town, ask another student how to go from one place to another.

For example:

Student A: Excuse me. How do I get from school to the library?

Student B: (Uses the map, and answers the question.)



PART 2
STATE ROADS

READING: THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY

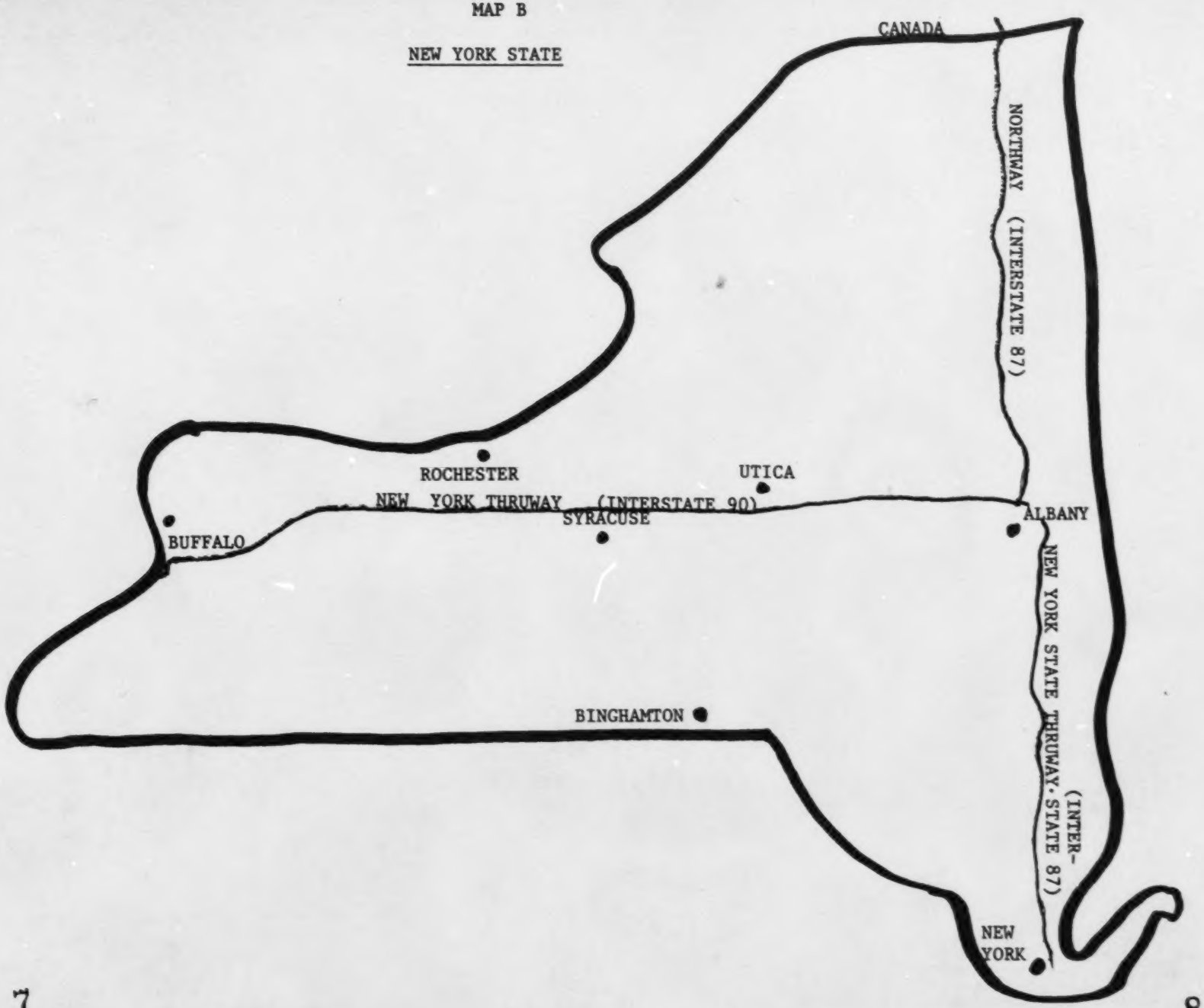
The New York State Thruway is a toll road that connects New York City and Buffalo. You have to pay to use a toll road. When you get on the Thruway, the toll taker gives you a card. The card tells you how much you must pay when you get off the Thruway. You must be very careful not to lose the card, because you must give it to the toll taker when you pay your toll.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a toll road? Name a toll road.
2. What does the toll taker give you when you get on the Thruway?
3. What must you give the toll taker when you get off the Thruway?
4. What cities does the New York State Thruway connect?

MAP B

NEW YORK STATE



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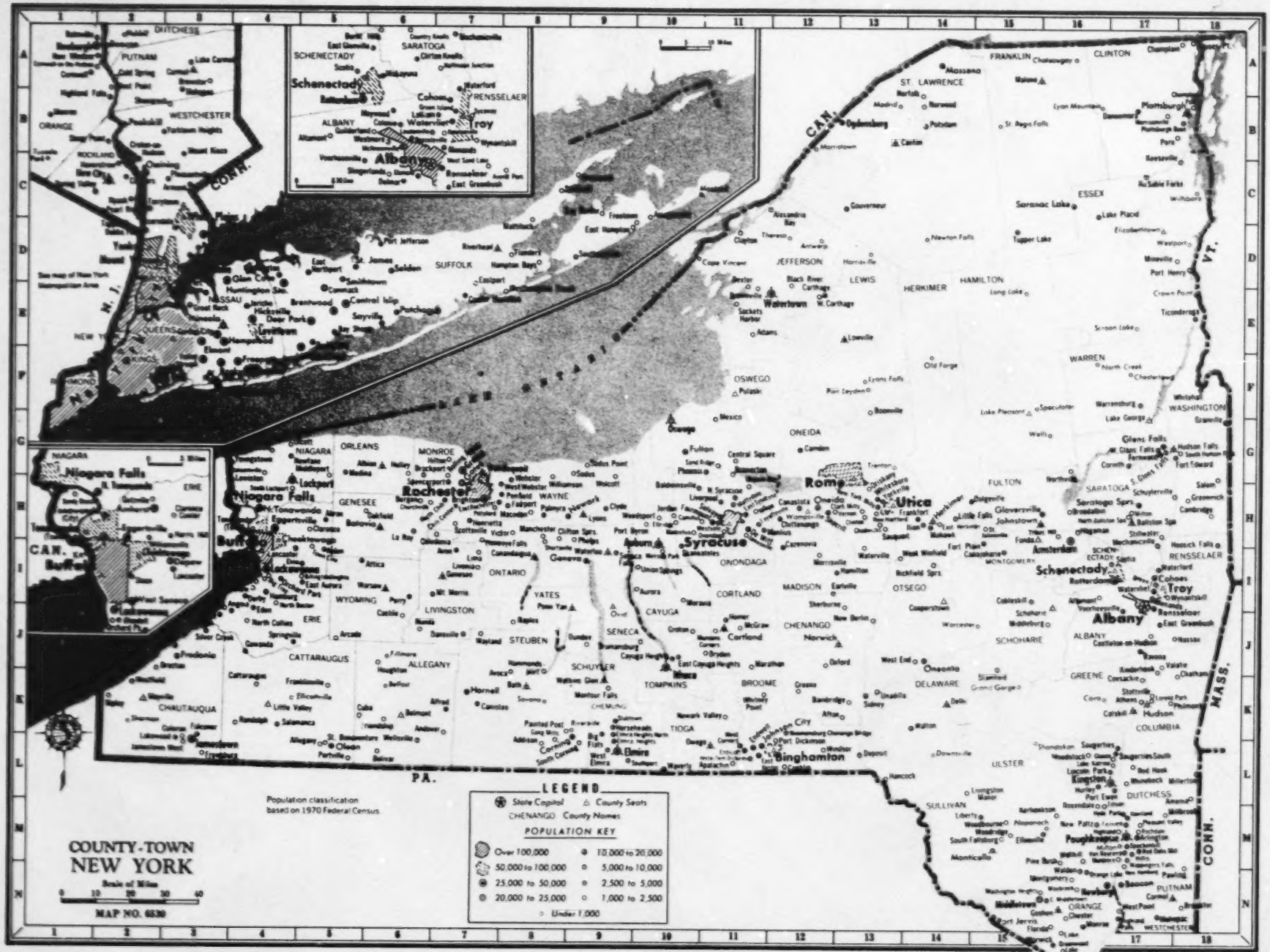

COUNTY-TOWN
NEW YORK
Scale of Miles
0 10 20 30 40
MAP NO. 6830
Population classification based on 1970 Federal Census
LEGEND
State Capitol
County Seats
CHENANGO County Names
POPULATION KEY
Over 100,000
50,000 to 100,000
25,000 to 50,000
20,000 to 25,000
10,000 to 20,000
5,000 to 10,000
2,500 to 5,000
1,000 to 2,500
Under 1,000
CAN.
PA.
CONN.
MASS.
VT.
N.J.
LAKE ONTARIO
Albany
Troy
Schenectady
Rochester
Buffalo
Niagara Falls
Syracuse
Utica
Rome
Binghamton
Elmira
Auburn
Watertown
Plattsburgh
Saratoga Spgs.
Amsterdam
Glens Falls
Hudson Falls
Fort Edward
Kingston
Poughkeepsie
Newburgh
Middletown
Monticello
Jamestown
Olean
Dunkirk
Lockport
Batavia
Geneva
Canandaigua
Hornell
Corning
Oneonta
Cooperstown
Gloversville
Johnstown
Little Falls
Ogdensburg
Massena
Malone
Saranac Lake
Lake Placid
Tupper Lake
Port Henry
Ticonderoga
Granville
Whitehall
Hoosick Falls
Cohoes
Watervliet
Rensselaer
East Greenbush
Schoharie
Catskill
Hudson
Chatham
Valatie
Kinderhook
Coxsackie
Athens
Stuyvesant
Greenport
Port Jervis
Florida
Warwick
Monroe
Chester
Tarrytown
Sleepy Hollow
Ossining
Peekskill
Mount Kisco
Pleasantville
Mount Vernon
New Rochelle
Yonkers
White Plains
Port Chester
Rye
Harrison
Scarsdale
Bronxville
Eastchester
Pelham
Mamaroneck
Larchmont
New Rochelle
Port Chester
Rye
Harrison
Scarsdale
Bronxville
Eastchester
Pelham
Mamaroneck
Larchmont

BACKGROUND TO THE DIALOG

Nam and Kim are going by car from Albany to Buffalo. Look at Map B. That is about 300 miles. They are traveling on the New York State Thruway. They got off the Thruway for lunch at a restaurant near Rochester. Now they have finished lunch, but they cannot find the Thruway. They are lost. They are at a gas station asking directions.

DIALOG

Nam: Excuse me. How do we get to the Thruway?

Attendant: Go straight ahead until you see a sign for Route 490 East. Take 490 East until you see signs for the Thruway.

Nam: Thank you very much.

* * *

Nam and Kim have found the Thruway entrance. They are at the tollgate. Kim is talking to the toll taker.

Kim: How do we get from the Thruway to the State University at Buffalo?

Toll Taker: Get off the Thruway at Exit 51. Turn right, off the exit, and take Main Street for about a mile and you will see it.

Kim: Thanks.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are Nam and Kim going?
2. How are they traveling? What road are they on?
3. What happened to them?
4. How did they get back to the Thruway?
5. Who gave them directions to the Thruway?
6. Who gave them directions to the State University at Buffalo?
7. About how far is it from Albany to Buffalo?

POINT FOR DISCUSSION (Your teacher will give you a road map.)

1. Using a map of New York State, tell how to get from your city or town to a place that you would like to visit, such as:
   Buffalo.
   New York City.
   Albany.
   Rochester.
   Binghamton.

MINI-DIALOG

Nam and Kim plan to leave their friends' house in Buffalo next week. They plan to drive to Chicago.

Nam: How do we get from Buffalo to Chicago?

Le: Chicago is about 550 miles southwest of Buffalo. You have to go through Cleveland, Ohio to get there.

Nam: Thanks, we'll take a road map with us.

Le: If you don't have the map you need, you can get one at a gas station.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are Nam and Kim now?
2. Where are they going?
3. In what direction is Chicago?
4. How far is it from Buffalo?
5. What should they take with them?
6. Where can they get maps?

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Your teacher will give you a map of the United States. Using the map, tell how to get from your town to another place you would like to visit. Tell what states you go through and what direction you go.

   Tell someone how to get to:

   San Francisco, California
   Boston, Massachusetts
   Miami, Florida
   Washington, D.C.
   Chicago, Illinois.

MINI-DIALOG

Nam and Kim are planning their trip from Buffalo to Chicago. They are looking at a mileage chart. A mileage chart is a map that "tells" how far it is between cities.

Nam: To get to Chicago, we have to go through Cleveland. From Buffalo to Cleveland is 194 miles.

Kim: Yes, and from Cleveland to Chicago is 364 miles. That's 558 miles from Buffalo to Chicago. That's a long drive for one day.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are Nam and Kim going?
2. How far is it from Buffalo to Cleveland? Chicago?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

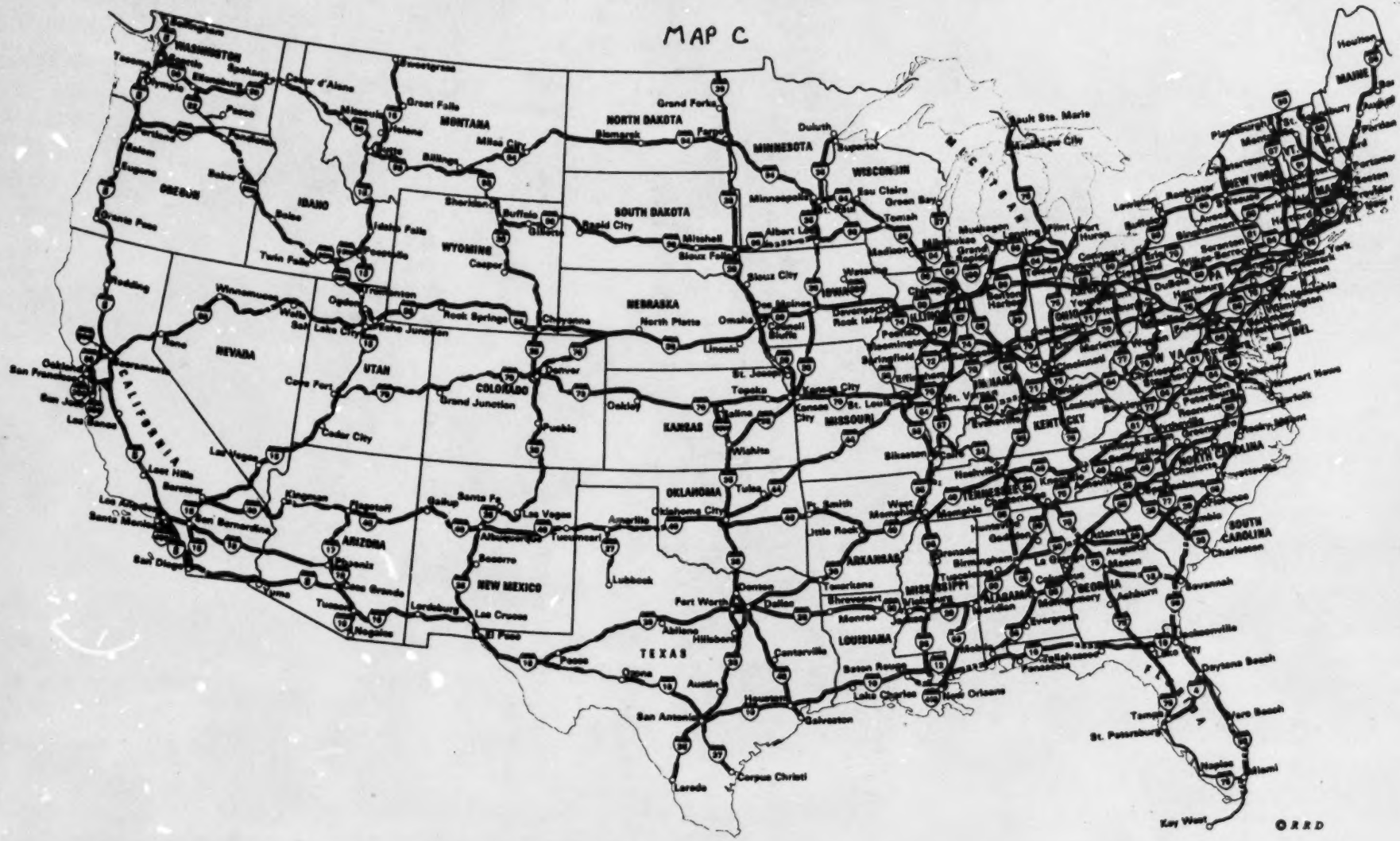
1. Have you ever taken a long trip with your family? Where did you go? How long did it take?
2. Different people have different ideas about what is the "best" route. Traveling on some highways is faster, but you must pay. Some highways have less traffic. Some are more scenic than others. What do you think is the "best" route?

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE

Using a map of the United States, talk about the following:

1. Where did you first arrive in the United States? How far is it from where you are now?
2. What places would you like to visit in the United States? How would you get there? How far is it from here to there?

MAP C



The National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, popularly called the Interstate System, is a 42,500-mile network of rural and urban freeways spanning the Nation and connecting and serving 92 percent of all cities of over 50,000 population and many smaller cities and towns. Over 38,000 miles have been completed and are now in use. When completed, the system will carry 20 percent of all traffic although it will include only about 1 percent of the Nation's total road and street mileage.

Major routes carry one or two digit numbers with odd numbers indicating north-south routes, and even numbers indicating east-west routes.

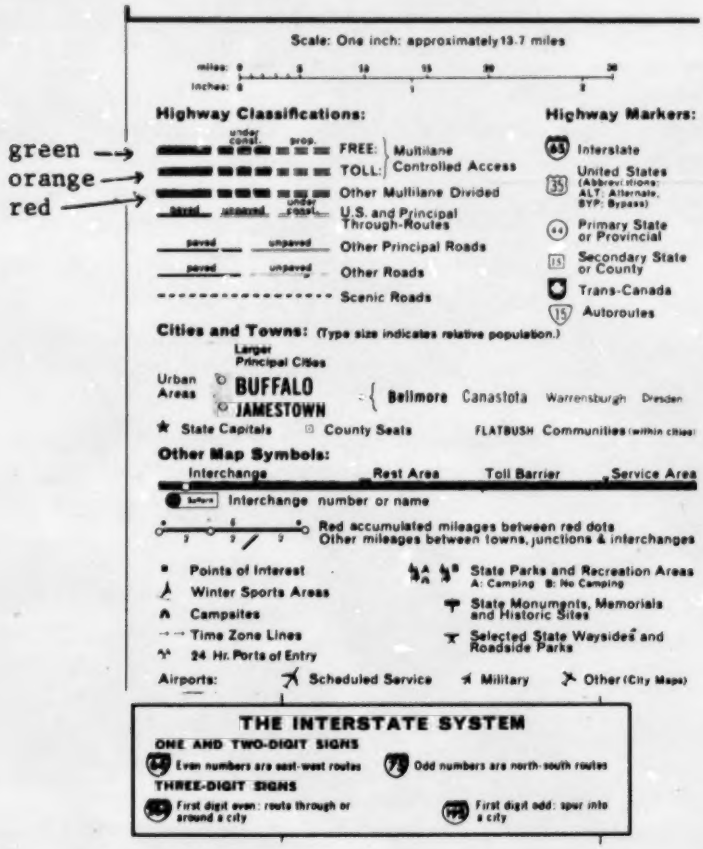
Supplemental routes carry three digit numbers. An even number prefix such as 2 or 4 to a major number, indicates a route through or around a city; an odd number prefix such as 1 or 3 to a major route number indicates a spur route into a city or area.

MAP LEGEND

- Toll Expressways
- Free Expressways
- Expressways Under Construction
- Other Through Highways

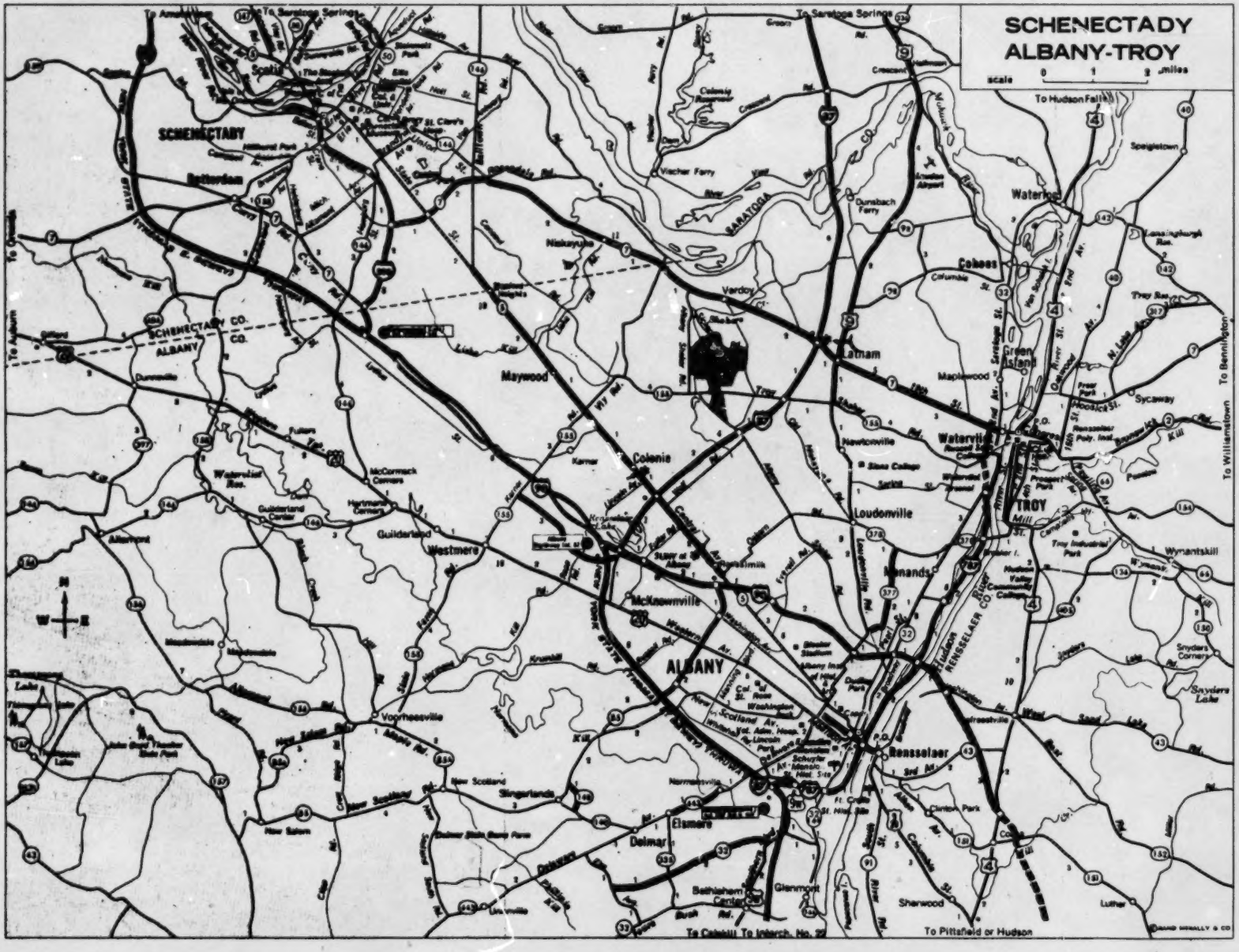
Scale of map does not permit showing of status in urban areas and for very short distances.

READING SELECTION

If you are traveling somewhere by car, you will need a road map. Most gas stations have free road maps for New York and nearby states. In order to read a road map you need to know the meaning of symbols on the map. Below are two legends which give the meanings of some symbols on road maps. Look at the symbols and their meanings, then do the exercises.

EXERCISES ON THE READING

1. Does Interstate Route 90 run east and west, or north and south?
2. Does Interstate Route 87 run east and west, or north and south?
3. Is the symbol for a multilane divided highway ═══ or ═══ ? (Circle the correct symbol.)
4. Is the sign for a route *into* a city 135 or 495? (Circle the correct symbol.)

MAP D


SCHENECTADY
ALBANY-TROY
scale 0 1 2 miles
SCHENECTADY
Rotterdam
Maywood
Colonie
Guilderland
Westmere
McKownville
ALBANY
Voorheesville
Slingerlands
Delmar
Elsmere
Latham
Cohoes
Waterford
Watervliet
Loudonville
Menands
TROY
Rensselaer
Sherwood
Wynantskill
Snyders Lake
To Saratoga Springs
To Hudson Falls
To Amsterdam
To Albany
To Williamstown
To Bennington
To Pittsfield or Hudson
SCHENECTADY CO.
ALBANY CO.
HUDSON
MOHAWK
HENSSELAER CO.
RAND MCNALLY & CO

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